

Message Text

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JOINT STATE/USAID/USIS MESSAGE

DEPT FOR AF/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFIN, AFSP, ASEC
SUBJ: DAYTIME GUARDS AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

1. DURING THE PAST YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS IN ADDIS ABABA. THE SITUATION IS BY NO MEANS SO SERIOUS THAT IT POSES A REAL RISK TO DAILY LIVING NOR MUCH OF A HINDERANCE TO THE PERFORMANCE OF EVERYDAY TASKS, NOR IS IT SO REGARDED BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL. THE COUNTRY TEAM, HOWEVER, HAS FELT OBLIGED TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF IT, AND TO RECOMMEND TAKING APPROPRIATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, E.G., THAT YOUNG CHILDREN ALWAYS BE ACCOMPANIED WHENEVER THEY LEAVE THE FAMILY COMPOUND, TO INCLUDE GOING TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND ALL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND THAT ADULTS OR CHILDREN BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ETHIOPIAN WHILE HORSEBACK RIDING.

2. IN ADDITION, THE TRADITIONAL THREAT OF THIEVES HAS NOT LESSENED; IN FACT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT WITH INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT, THIS THREAT MAY INCREASE IN INTENSITY. WITH THE STRICTLY ENFORCED CURFEW, BURGLARS ARE FORCED TO OPERATE DURING

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DAYLIGHT AND EARLY EVENING HOURS. THESE PERIODS ARE THE TIMES WHICH NORMALLY WOULD BE COVERED BY A DAY GUARD.

3. AS A RESULT, THE SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE AND THE COUNTRY TEAM HAVE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT DAYTIME GUARDS ARE "ESSENTIAL" TO PROPER SECURITY. WITH PARTICULAR

REFERENCE TO ACCOMPANIMENT AND THE NEED TO KEEP
HOMES OCCUPIED AT ALL TIMES TO PROTECT FROM BURGLARS,
MOST EMBASSY EMPLOYEES HAVE HIRED DAY GUARDS AT PERSONAL
EXPENSE.

4. INASMUCH AS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF
INCIDENTS WILL DECLINE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE,
THE NEED FOR THESE AGUARDS IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED, AND
OFFICIAL EMBASSY SECURITY POLICIES RECOMMEND THE USE OF DAY
GUARDS, IT SEEMS UNFAIR THAT THE EMPLOYEE SHOULD BE BURDENED
WITH THE COST. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT A DE FACTO
SITUATION BE RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT IT IS, AND THAT THE COST OF
DAYTIME GUARDS BE BORNE BY EACH OF THE AGENCIES REPRESENTED AT
POST. INDEED, TWO AGENCIES, DAO AND NAMRU, ALREADY
REIMBURSE THEIR EMPLOYEES FOR DAY GUARD SERVICE.

5. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE PROPOSE THAT BEGINNING WITH
THE FIRST FISCAL QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977, THE
POST BEAR THE EXPENSE OF DAYTIME GUARDS. WITH THE POST
COVERING THE COSTS, AN ADDITIONAL SECURITY BENEFIT WOULD ACCRUE;
THAT IS, ALL PERSONNEL WOULD BE ASSURED 24-HOUR PROTECTION,
SOMETHING THAT IS OFFICIALLY ENCOURAGED AND RECOMMENDED, BUT
AT PRESENT FINALLY LEFT UP TO THE INDIVISUAL.

6. FOR STATE, THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT IS AN INCREASE
OF DOLLARS 1650 PROGRAM AND DOLLARS 5250 FAAS FOR THREE
QUARTERS OF THE FISCAL YEAR. OTHER AGENCIES WILL PRESENT
THEIR REQUIREMENTS SEPARATELY. HOWEVER, WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS THAT
IF THIS PROGRAM IS TO BE ADOPTED, IT BE DONE ON AN EMBASSY-
WIDE BASIS, I.E. THAT ALL AGENCIES SUPPORT THE PROGRAM.
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WE WOULD THEREFORE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE
OTHER AGENCIES TO DO SO AS WELL (DOD FOR MAAG, AID AND USIA)
IF THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME RELUCTANCE ON THEIR PART.
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